

Francis Preston Blair to Andrew Jackson, April 17, 1838, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

FRANCIS P. BLAIR TO JACKSON.

Washington, April 17, 1838.

My Dear General: I received your letters in answer to my last, and was happy to perceive from the firmness of your hand and the spirit of your style, that you were really recovering from this Spring's attack on your constitution. You must indeed beware the Ides of march: It is the time when your life is threatened by the violent changes and freaks of the weather, which it is most difficult to guard against. As you have got through so well and seem to gain strength, I am in great hopes you will by the next spring reinvigorate your constitution under the shelter of the Hermitage and a southern sky, so as to reach the age which Heaven kindly vouchsafed to all our truly *Republican* presidents. I hope I shall live to hail you as the most beloved of all our "*Octogenarian Chiefs*".

Every day serves to open up to the world the Wisdom and patriotism of the great reform you originated in your Presidency. The overthrow of the Bank which was gathering head to establish under a new charter not only a control over the Currency but a monopoly of Commerce and an absolute authority in politics by a concentration of all the influence of the Aristocracy of wealth to be wielded by the head in secret councils with the *Executive* and political Power of the Country will be more and more the subject of congratulation and Joy as a new deliverance of the Country, the more the danger it has escaped is developed. Biddle's late letter, his ruin of the Currency by the stoppage of all the Banks, his grasping charter, laying hold of the whole trade of this Country as the East India Company did that of Asia, his open attempt to dragoon one half the nation and corrupt

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the other, by his money power aided by foreign alliances, will ere long make every Patriot in this land and those of every future age bless the man whom providence raised up to deliver in the crisis of its fate this continent set apart as the abode of Freedom. That you delivered it in war and in peace will double the gratitude of the generations to come after you. Let me congratulate you, that you have a successor fully imbued with a sense of the great object for which you contended, and as resolute to accomplish what you so gloriously begun, as you would be if you still held the station he occupies. I perceive that it is a high gratification to him, to feel that he is contending to secure in his own success, the fame of one, so worthy of all his gratitude, of one so dear to him, and of one with whom he esteems it the highest honor to be so identified.

Poor Rives, as you truly say was first *amused*, then *used* and is now *abused*. He in his heart wishes he was out of political life. He feels that he has in fact killed himself off. The elections in *New York* and every where show that conservatism has used itself up, has done nothing more than prostitute itself to the Enemy and that now the Democracy is crushing it with federalism under the weight of popular odium. The President is perfectly sanguine of a glorious triumph. . . .